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Description of the Egg of Aedes (Diceromyia) furcifer (Edwards) (Diptera: Culicidae)[1]

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The eggs of Aedes furcifer (Edwards) are described and illustrated for the first time herein. This is also the first description of the eggs for any species of the subgenus Diceromyia Theobald. The following description is based on 4 mature eggs extracted from the abdomen of a museum specimen which had the following collection data on the labels: UGANDA, Bwamba Province, April 1948, E. C. C. van Someren collector, and SEAMP Accession Number 111. The nomenclature used follows that of Kalpage and Brust (1968) and Craig and Horsfall (1960).

Eggs of furcifer are very resistant to desiccation as reported by Muspratt (1955: 174). He obtained hatching when he flooded eggs that had been laid in bamboo pots more than 14 months earlier. This drought-resistance of the eggs is an adaptation that enables the species, and probably, other members of the subgenus, to survive dry periods. The only other information on the eggs of Diceromyia is given by Mattingly (1959: 2, 43) for the Malayan species franciscoi Mattingly. He reports eggs of this species were collected from bamboo pots hung about 30 feet from the ground in a mango tree.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EGG
(Figs. 1-2)

Shape (Fig. 1). Broadly fusiform, with ends bluntly rounded; anterior end with sharp taper, posterior end with gradual taper, greatest diameter between anterior third and middle. Size. Length 543-545 microns; width at widest point 182-183 microns. Color. Dark brown. Chorion (Fig. 2). Reticulation uniform, composed of pentagonal and hexagonal cells, and occasionally diamond-shaped ones, cell walls raised and prominent.

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DISCUSSION

The reticulation of *furcifer* closely resembles that of <u>Aedes</u> (<u>Ochlerotatus</u>) <u>campestris</u> Dyar and Knab from the semi-arid plains of North America and <u>Aedes</u> (<u>Ochlerotatus</u>) <u>fitchii</u> (Felt and Young) from the forested areas of the northern Nearctic Region.

Eggs of *furcifer* have a resemblance in shape and chorion sculpturing to those of species in the subgenus <u>Ochlerotatus</u> Lynch Arribalzaga and show little similarity to those of the known species of <u>Aedimorphus</u> Theobald and <u>Stegomyia</u> Theobald.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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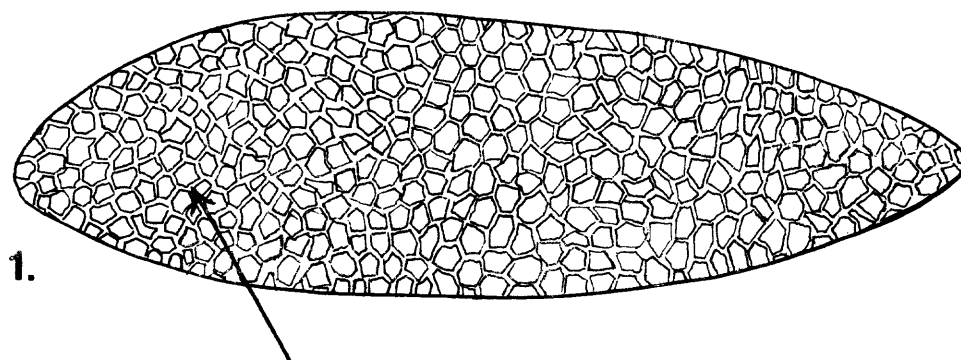
FIG. 1.　Dorsoventral outline of Aedes (Diceromyia) furcifer egg
illustrating shape and reticulation.　Dorsal aspect is
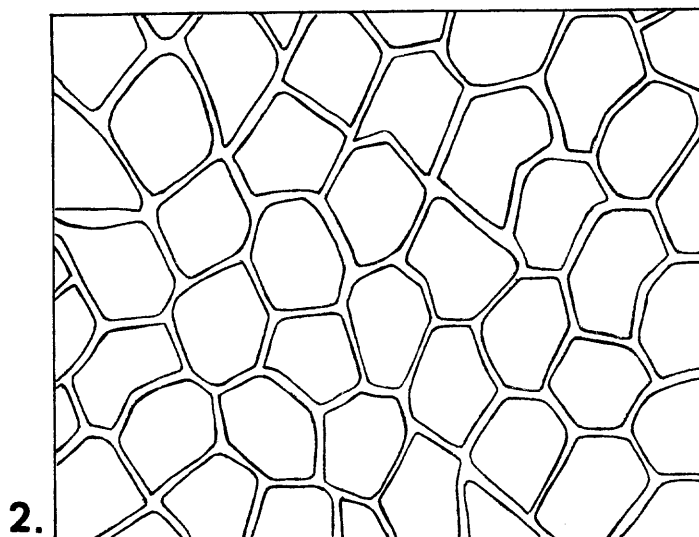towards the top and anterior end is to the left.

FIG. 2.　Enlargement of egg chorion reticulation of Aedes
(Diceromyia) furcifer from area indicated by the arrow
in figure 1.